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To: Examiner A. Q. Choudhury  
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Re; Docket No: JP919990263US1  
Serial No: 09/772,011

Comments:

Notice of Appeal, Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Conference and  
Arguments in Support of the Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Conference attached

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## PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

JP919990263-US1

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name Anne Vachon Dougherty

Application Number

09/772,011

Filed

1/27/01

First Named Inventor

Feng, Nan

Art Unit

2143

Examiner

A. Choudhury

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

 applicant/inventor. assignee of record of the entire interest.See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.  
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September 12, 2005

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.  
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**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR PRE-APPEAL CONFERENCE  
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The Examiner has rejected all of the claims under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the teachings of the Ballard patent (hereinafter "Ballard"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the Examiner has erred in maintaining 102 anticipation rejections against the pending claims.

The present invention is directed to a system, method, and program storage device for providing load balancing among a plurality of mirror servers. When a user at a client machine contacts a web site, the web page and a predetermined script are transmitted to the client. The predetermined script is automatically executed at the client to establish connections with each of the plurality of mirror servers which are associated with the web page and which can serve the client's request. As the connections are established between the client and each of the mirror servers, the response times are measured. The client selects the mirror server with the most favorable response time, maintaining the connection with the selected mirror server and terminating the connections with the remaining mirror servers. The "load balancing" is done at the client location by evaluating the response times, which are assumed to be a function of current workload. The claims expressly recite an apparatus, a program storage device, and a method including explicit means and steps for transmitting both a web page and script to a client; automatically executing the script to create the connections and

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measure response times; and, selecting the mirror server with the shortest response time.

The Ballard patent is directed to client-side load balancing in a client/server network. Ballard teaches that each client has **client-resident** software comprising a server selection function (shown at box 52 of Fig. 6). In addition, each client is provided with a load balance list which is created, updated, and distributed to clients by a system administrator (see: Col. 6, lines 66-67). The load balance list consists of an identification of server computers, and may also include a load percentage for each of the listed server computers (see: Col. 6, lines 5-8). The load percentage is a target percentage, representing what percentage of the client's request load should be sent to each server. As representatively taught at Col. 6, lines 12-14, "Fig. 4A, for example, shows a load balance list in which the load is to be divided equally among four ISP server computers." When a client has a data request to send to a server, the client accesses the load balance list and **executes the client-resident server selection function to select one of the servers on the list**, and then attempts to send the request to the selected server. When the load balance list includes load percentages, then "[o]ver time...the actual load percentage for each server computer in the list 54 converges to the specified percentage in the list 54" (Col. 6, lines 41-44). In other words, the load selection function manages toward the target

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percentages. "According to an alternative scheme, the load select function may randomly select one of the servers in the list 54 or may perform a round-robin selection, or perform some mathematical computation" (see: Col. 6, lines 41-48).

Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner erred in citing the Ballard patent as a 102 reference since Ballard neither teaches nor suggests a client directly contacting a web site, the web site responding to the client by transmitting the web page and predetermined executable script; the client executing the predetermined script to establish connections with all of the plurality of mirror servers accessible using that script; or, the client measuring the response times and selecting the one of the mirror servers with the most favorable response time. Rather, the Ballard system executes client-resident software to select a single server to be contacted. Moreover, the single server is selected not based on response time, but is selected based on a target percentage, randomly, in a round-robin fashion, or based on a mathematical computation (see: Col. 6, lines 41-48).

It is well established under U. S. Patent Law that, for a reference to anticipate claim language under 35 USC 102, that reference must teach each and every claim feature. Since the Ballard patent does not teach transmitting predetermined script with a web page from the server group to the client in response to a client request, does not teach executing received script at

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the client, does not teach the client creating connections with a plurality of mirror servers, does not teach client measurement of response times, and does not teach client selection of a mirror server having the most favorable response time, it cannot be maintained that the Ballard patent anticipates the invention as claimed in independent Claims 1, 11, and 20. Applicants further point out that a reference which does not anticipate the language of independent claims cannot be said to anticipate the language of claims which depend therefrom and add further limitations thereto. Accordingly, Applicants conclude that the Examiner erred in rejecting the pending claims as anticipated by the Ballard patent.